

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A composite material [[(10)]] for acoustic or mechanical damping, comprising: a plurality of layers of fibrous material [[(12)]] embedded in a structural matrix material [[(14)]]; a layer [[(24)]] of viscoelastic high polymer material between consecutive layers of fibrous material, said layer [[(24)]] of viscoelastic polymer material being bonded to the adjacent layers of fibrous material [[(12)]] embedded in the structural matrix material [[(14)]], ~~charaacterised~~ characterized in that the layer [[(24)]] of viscoelastic polymer material is perforated, whereby the structural matrix material [[(14)]] is continuous through the perforations [[(34)]] between the adjacent layers of fibrous material [[(12)]] embedded in a [[the]] structural matrix material [[(14)]].

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to claim 1 wherein the perforations occupy 5-50% of the area of the layer [[(24)]] of viscoelastic polymer material.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to ~~any preceding~~ any claim 1, wherein the structural matrix material [[(14)]] comprises a resin.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to ~~any preceding~~ any claim 1, wherein the viscoelastic polymer material [[(24)]] comprises one of: polyurethane, polyester, polyethylene, PVC and copolymers.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to ~~any~~ preceding claim 1, wherein the fibrous material ~~[(12)]~~ is glass ~~[(fibre)]~~ fiber matting.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to ~~any~~ preceding claim 1, wherein a pure epoxy/glass ~~[(fibre,)]~~ fiber or metal, layer is located on one surface of the composite material.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a composite material ~~[(10)]~~ for acoustic or mechanical damping, comprising the steps of:

- providing at least one first, fibrous, layer ~~(12; 26)~~ impregnated with a first structural matrix material ~~[(14)]~~;
- stacking the at least one first, fibrous, layer on a former;
- providing at least one second layer ~~[(24)]~~ comprising a viscoelastic polymer material;
- stacking the at least one second layer on the stack of the first, fibrous, layer(s);
- providing at least one third, fibrous, layer impregnated with a second structural matrix material;
- stacking the at least one third layer on the stack of first and second layers; and
- simultaneously heating and compressing the resulting stack of first, second and third layers to cause the material of the second layer(s) to bond with

the first and third layers, further comprising the step of perforating [[(34)]] the second layer(s) prior to the step of stacking the second layer(s), whereby the structural matrix material [[(14)]] is continuous through the perforations [[(34)]] between the adjacent layers of fibrous material [[(12)]] embedded in the structural matrix material.

Claim 8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the step of perforating comprises forming perforations with occupy 5-50% of the area of the second layer(s).

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 7-8~~ claim 7, wherein the viscoelastic polymer film material comprises one of: polyurethane, polyester, polyethylene, PVC and copolymers..

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 7-9~~ claim 7, wherein the step of heating and compressing is performed by enclosing the stack in a heat-shrinking material, and then heating the stack and the heat-shrinking material.

Claim 11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the heat shrinking material is polyamide tape.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 7-11~~ claim 7, wherein the first and/or second structural matrix material comprises an epoxy, polyester or phenolic resin; or polyurethane.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 7-12~~ claim 7, wherein the structural matrix material(s) includes thermo setting material, and the step of heating and compressing is effective to harden the thermosetting material.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 7-13~~ claim 7, wherein the fibrous layers [[(12)]] comprise glass [[fibre]] fiber matting.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 7-14~~ claim 7, further comprising the step of selecting the direction of the fibres fibers and [[fibre]] fiber types in the fibrous layers [[(12)]] to provide a desired combination of structural strength, stiffness and damping properties.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 7-15~~ claim 7, further comprising the step of providing a pure epoxy/glass [[fibre]] fiber or metal layer, on one surface of the composite material.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 7-16~~ claim 7, wherein the layer of viscoelastic polymer material comprises a thermoplastic material, and the heating and compressing step is effective to diffuse or intermingle the thermoplastic material into the structural matrix material.

Claims 18.-20. (Cancelled)